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FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

IN CHARGE OF

LAVINIA L. DOCK



GERMAN REGISTRATION

Sister Agnes Rarll, in a recent number of the *German Nurses, Journal* discusses editorially the passage of the recently secured Registration Act in Germany. She says that although it only fixes one year's training yet it must be regarded as a substantial reform, because so many influences have been at work creating deplorable conditions in German nursing, that numerous three-months' and six-weeks' pretended courses of training have sprung into existence. It seems that even in Germany, the home of scientific education and thoroughness, the pecuniary profits in exploiting nurses and their work have been discerned, and grasped—sometimes by pure charlatans posing as Masseur-Nurses and Health-Doctors; sometimes, it is most discouraging to know, by reputable physicians themselves, who have condescended to a quackery in nursing that they would resent in medicine. Sister Agnes thinks the prospects now most hopeful, and as the German government has a way of having its law obeyed, we are sure that secular, educated nurses in Germany will now have a rising tide of progress.

The German Registration Act is in some points an encouraging, in others a sadly discouraging, document. It is good on its practical technical side, but a perfect sample of Old World matter-of-course autocracy in its ignoring of the worker as anything but a cog in the wheel. Not a shadow of representation or sharing in conclusions is accorded to the nurses.

It is excellently practical and presupposes no small amount of medical knowledge. The demonstration test is the most unusual and interesting feature of the bill. For this the applicants (not more than six are examined in one group) are placed for three days in a hospital designated, when the examination is held. Here they each are put in charge of a patient for the greater part of the three days, including one night duty. There are, further, demonstrations in surgery, first aid, bathing, operating-room technique and assistance, etc.

The main features of the act are: The general control is given to the civil governments of the states, and training-schools in state hospitals (or in those recognized by the state in this respect) are eligible to send graduates to the state examination. Just what lines the state will draw in granting recognition, or how it will investigate or inspect, is not set forth.

The civil authorities will select the physicians, three in a group, who will conduct the examinations on lines closely specified in the Act.

One year's training course is required, but exceptions may be made of nurses who have not studied in recognized schools, but who in the judgment of the civil authorities have had equivalent training.

The defects of this bill are obvious, prominent being the limitation to one year, which is very possibly due to a wish to let all the military and naval service men through (for they figure prominently).

Every one knows that a one-year's course means a superficial training. As a matter of fact, all of the best German schools, though counting only one year for training, give their nurses from three to five years' hospital service.

The good thing in the German situation is that government officials in Germany are of a high type of civic virtue and work from a sense of duty and public responsibility. "Graft" and "pull" are all but unknown, and the German law will be administered seriously. Some of the most sympathetic and liberal supporters of nursing reform in Germany are laymen in high official positions.

The best medical men there also often in practise accord to the women nurses a consideration that they would perhaps not be willing to see on paper, for in Germany, as in some places nearer home, the men like to seem to be doing everything of their own motion. As we have formerly mentioned, certain medical men in Germany have sinned against ethics and good standards in nursing, by yielding to the commercial temptation, and thus a certain amount of odium has attached to them as well as to the victims of their sham courses.

These bogus courses will have an emphatic set-back under the new law.

THE ENGLISH REGISTRATION MOVEMENT

A DEPUTATION of representative nurses, medical men, and lay supporters of registration was received early in March by the president of the Privy Council, the Earl of Crewe, who gave a sympathetic

hearing to the addresses made and the arguments presented in favor of legal status for nurses. The deputation included Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, secretary of the State Society; Miss Haldane, of the Scottish Registration Committee; Miss Hampson, the president of the Irish Nurses' Association; Miss Peter, late Superintendent of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses; Miss Pearse, Miss Mollett, Miss Barton, Miss Forrest, all representing hospital and nursing interests; and Miss Breay, the secretary of the Matron's Council. Lady Helen Munro Ferguson, whose assistance has been of a most effective and unremitting character, and Mrs. Garrett Fawcett were among the lay members, and Dr. Bedford Fenwick, Dr. H. Langley Browne, and Sir James Crichton Browne represented the medical profession. The deputation was cordially received by the president of the Privy Council, who said in his reply to the addresses that the uniform of the nurse carried with it a prestige only enjoyed in the case of "the inferior sex" by His Majesty's Navy, and it was important that its honor should be upheld. He assured the deputation that a registration bill, if introduced, would receive the "benevolent attention of the government."

Thus another important step in the highly picturesque and extraordinary road toward their goal has been taken by the nurses of Great Britain. When registration finally comes, we hope the leaders of this most determined and intelligent movement will write a complete history of its whole inception and progress.

RAISING THE STANDARD IN THE ENGLISH ARMY NURSING SERVICE

THE English Military Nursing Service has instituted an excellent and practical examination test for matrons, and after February all sisters, before promotion to the rank of matron, will be required to pass this examination. The *British Journal of Nursing* summarizes the eligibility qualifications for this examination as follows:

The completion of five year's service in the rank of sister in the military service.

The submission of a certificate that, during the twelve months previous to the date on which the examination is held, the candidate has undergone special instruction by a matron in the matron's duties for a period of two months, or has discharged matron's duties for the same period. This certificate is to be signed by the matron of the hospital in which the sister is serving.

To enable candidates to procure the necessary certificate of administrative capacity, sisters of four years' service and over may at their own request undergo a two month's course of special instruction in matron's duties.

The board of examiners will consist of a principal matron as president, and two military matrons as members. For stations abroad a board will be appointed to conduct the oral examination under arrangements made by the director-general. The written examination will be supervised by a local board consisting of a matron as president and two sisters as members.

The examination will be written and oral; the written portion will consist of four questions, for which three hours will be allowed.

The time allowed for the oral portion will be fifteen minutes.

The examination will consist of questions bearing on the following subjects :

PART I. (a) The regulations affecting the army nursing service, and the relations of its members to the medical officers, nursing staff, and patients of hospitals; method of conducting official correspondence and of keeping accounts.

(b) The distribution of duties of the nursing *personnel* in hospitals in peace and war, and the numerical proportion of nursing staff to patients under varying circumstances.

(c) The special circumstances affecting nursing in hospitals in the field, hospital ships, ambulance trains, convalescent establishments.

(d) Responsibilities of nursing staff as to equipment, bedding, and linen.

(e) The supervision of nursing quarters and their domestic economy.

(f) The sanitation, in accordance with the regulations, of all premises under their charge; ventilation, warming, and methods of cleaning.

(g) Precautions necessary in connection with nursing of cases of infectious disease.

(h) The nursing in hospitals for women and children.

PART II. To deliver, before the examiners, a lecture adapted to the training of orderlies, royal army medical corps, on one of the subjects laid down in the syllabus contained in standing orders for royal army medical corps, Appendix 2.

The time allotted to this lecture should not exceed forty-five minutes.

Written questions on the lecture (suitable for the orderlies attending the same) must be handed in at the time of examination.

MARKS FOR THE EXAMINATION.

Written	75
Oral	50
Lecture	25

Total	150

50 per cent. of the total marks are necessary to pass.

There has died recently at the Convent, Wigton, Cumberland, in the eighty-second year of her age, one of the few remaining nurses of the Crimean War, Mother Mary de Chantal, R. R. C., known in the world as Maria Louisa Huddon. Miss Huddon entered the Convent of Mercy, Bermondsey, in the year 1851, and with other members of her community went out to the Crimea in 1854, serving for eighteen months under Miss Florence Nightingale.

Miss Margaret J. Edmunds, a graduate of the University Hospital in Ann Arbor, '94, now one of three foreign-born trained nurses in Korea, introduces us by photographs to the members of Korea's first native training-school for nurses—Miss Grace Yee, Mrs. Martha Kim, Mrs. Ella Kim and Mrs. Mattie Chung. The name of their training-school is Po Ku Nyo Koau, at Seoul, Korea.

We greet warmly these charming young Oriental sisters, and hope to hear more from Miss Edmunds of her work among them.





Po Ku Nyo Koan Training-School for Nurses, Seoul, Korea. Margaret J. Edmunds, Superintendent, Graduate of University Hospital, Ann Arbor, Mich., Class 1894.
Pupils of the first native training-school for nurses are as follows: Miss Grace Yee, Mrs. Martha Kim, Mrs. Ellen Kim, Mrs. Watlie Chung. Work among these young women is very encouraging.